

BIOMARKER DETECTION IN CIRCULATING CELLS

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Abstract of the Invention

10 A method is provided for detecting biomarkers in rare circulating cells by forming an
enriched population of cells immunomagnetically followed by biomarker detection using binding
compounds having releasable molecular tags. Preferably, biomarkers comprising one or more
protein-protein complexes are detected in circulating cancer cells metastasized from a solid
tumor. In the presence of biomarkers, the molecular tags of the binding compounds are released
15 and separated from the assay mixture for detection and/or quantification.